

# The “Get Ahead” Book

Hello, parent or guardian.

It's a free day. No school.

***Homework is finished!?*** **Terrific.**

**Now is the time for meaningful fun and learning.**

**Just ten more minutes a day with the GET AHEAD program will help your child get ahead.**

Here are THREE WAYS YOU CAN START MAKING LEARNING FUN:

**1. Tackle several challenging problems in math each week.** Work on these problems together. Go to [MathForArtists.com](http://MathForArtists.com) and click on “Challenging problems.”



**2. Tape interesting words on your kitchen and bathroom walls.** Use the words from an SAT practice page on [newFCAT.com](http://newFCAT.com) (click on “SAT Words” and print them. Get more words on [freevocabulary.com](http://freevocabulary.com) and print a page every weeks.



**3. Learn more about learning.** Know the most effective way to learn. Go to [WhatShouldStudentsLearn.com](http://WhatShouldStudentsLearn.com) and find out what Bill Gates thinks about your child’s education and small schools. Learn about learning styles at [MathForArtists.com](http://MathForArtists.com). Do a Google search on other experts on learning: Dan Pink, Nancy Snyderman, Rob Becker and Dennis Littky ([BigPicture.org](http://BigPicture.org) and [MetCenter.org](http://MetCenter.org)).



That's it. Follow these three tips and improve your child's SAT scores and chances for a place in university.

**DVD Tutor** – This booklet comes with a DVD. The DVD has interviews with four mentors who might be the key to helping your child find his special passion. You also get a tour of the [MetCenter.org](http://MetCenter.org), an innovative school in Rhode Island.

Let's get started... copy one of the following Checklists and keep track of a week of extended learning.

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FIRST STEP: some math web sites

SECOND STEP: SAT Words

→ Look for the list of words in the center of the booklet.

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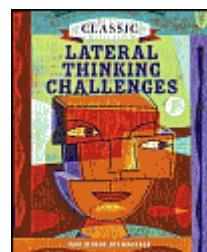
1. Brain Research
2. Learning Styles and Howard Gardner
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### BONUS: A list for a Substitute Teacher

#### Teacher

12. Web sites and Emailers
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16. Critical Thinking (snopes.com, randi.org)
17. Learn about Learning: MetCenter.org, Empirical Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Social Reasoning



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What does Bill Gates say?

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Health

A list of web sites

Create your own domain name (a lesson plan for students or teachers to use)

Final Words



*CopyLeft Notice: This list of instructions and recommended web sites is available with copyleft protection: Please copy this book in its entirety and share it with a student. This booklet was compiled in 2006 by Steve McCrea (Mr. Mac).*

### The Check List for Independent Students

*Can you study by yourself or with a friend and complete a task? Can you motivate yourself to look up information and answer a question? If so, use this form.*

| Date | Page | <b>What I Did:</b> What did I learn today?<br>What do I remember from the Internet?<br>What am I passionate about? | Check by adult |
|------|------|--|----------------|
|      |      |  |                |
|      |      |  |                |
|      |      |  |                |
|      |      |  |                |
|      |      |  |                |
|      |      |  |                |
|      |      |  |                |

When you complete this page, make a digital copy (scan this page or take a digital photo) and send it to [mistermath@comcast.net](mailto:mistermath@comcast.net). You'll get a prize. (15 minutes of private tutoring by phone or via SKYPE.com)

### Checklist for Students Who Want Instructions

*Do you want a teacher to tell you what to study? Do you like to work on a worksheet? Do you like to ask an adult to check your work? If so, use this form.*

| Date | <b>What I Did:</b> What did I learn today?<br>What do I remember from the Internet?<br>What am I passionate about?  | Check by adult |
|------|---|----------------|
|      | Go to MATHFORARTISTS.com and click on Challenging Problems. Repeat each day.<br>Go to FreeVocabulary.com and choose a word to learn. Repeat each day.   |                |
|      | Go to Snopes.com and click on a subject that interests you. Write to Mr. Mac <a href="mailto:s2314@mail.com">s2314@mail.com</a> about the topic you read about.<br>Challenging Problems and FreeVocabulary.com. |                |
|      | Go to about.com and click on a language that interests you. Repeat daily. Example: <a href="http://Spanish.about.com">Spanish.about.com</a> (or other language)<br>Challenging Problems and FreeVocabulary.com. |                |
|      | Go to NationalGeographic.com and click on a subject that interests you.<br>Challenging Problems, <a href="http://Spanish.about.com">Spanish.about.com</a> (or other language) and FreeVocabulary.com.           |                |
|      | Go to ScienceNewsForKids.com and click on a subject that interests you.<br>Challenging Problems, <a href="http://Spanish.about.com">Spanish.about.com</a> (or other language) and FreeVocabulary.com.           |                |
|      | Go to History.com and click on a subject that interests you.<br>Challenging Problems and FreeVocabulary.com.  |                |
|      | Go to NASA.gov and click on a subject that interests you.<br>Challenging Problems, <a href="http://Spanish.about.com">Spanish.about.com</a> (or other language) and FreeVocabulary.com.                         |                |

When you complete this page, make a digital copy and send it to [mistermath@comcast.net](mailto:mistermath@comcast.net). You'll get a prize. (15 minutes of private tutoring by phone or via SKYPE.com). Now you see that you can use the Independent Form (the previous page) ... you just find a page on the Internet and then you enter the information on the chart.

I sometimes hear these comments...

*“I don’t have a computer.”*

*“My computer isn’t connected to the Internet.”*

**Here are some suggestions:**

- a) Visit a computer at the public library to get the information from the web site that you want to visit.
- b) Ask to use a neighbor’s or friend’s computer and visit a web site.
- c) Copy the information to a CD and then look at the CD in your home (if you have a computer in your home, but don’t have the computer connected to the Internet).



There's usually a way to “reframe” a situation... a problem can turn into an opportunity.

If you say:

## *“I need a more structured program of study”*

Okay, here is a list of web sites that I selected from “The List” at the end of this booklet. You now have a structured program:

Visit each of these sites and remember to keep a list of new words that you learn each day.

- a) **Put the list of words on a wall** or an appliance that you use every day (next to a mirror or on the door of your refrigerator). Look at the words often and make sentences: “This milk reminds me of a precarious situation at school – my science project had a milk carton and it was in danger of falling over.”
- b) Use the form (**Checklist for Independent Students**) to record the web site that you visited. Work out an agreement with your parents to give you points for each web site that you visit. Points can be won if you perform your understanding of something new that you learned (and if you apply that information to your passion or area of interest).
- c) Since you are using this checklist to record your independent learning, **let your teachers know about your efforts.** Some teachers have a system of giving extra credit for extra work and some of this internet searching might earn you some extra credit. Talk with your teacher about a method of recording what you have learned

from the web site (by essay, report or other method of performing your understanding).

**Questions:** Send your comments, suggestions and questions to me at [mistermath@comcast.net](mailto:mistermath@comcast.net). Good searching.

## Here is the list of “selected web sites”

This will be a good starting point for your independent work. This list is like a structured program because the sites present information in a general way. You can get a good basic review of what you are currently studying in school, and we know that reviewing is an important part of learning.

Let's get started on the list. Make a photocopy of the **Checklist for Independent Students** and start recording your visits to these sites.

### Social Studies

[Geographyolympics.com](http://Geographyolympics.com) They created a world puzzle.  
[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com) (for social studies)

[WhatDoYaKnow.com](http://WhatDoYaKnow.com) A site created by a Social Studies teacher in Palm Beach County.

[bpl.org/kids/socialstudies.htm](http://bpl.org/kids/socialstudies.htm) Boston Public Library's page for Kids (fun)    [History.com](http://History.com) (of course!)



**A web site is like a pier stretching into the ocean...just waiting for you to come and fish for info**

### Foreign Language

[Spanish.about.com](http://Spanish.about.com) a general web site for learning Spanish

[Italian.about.com](http://Italian.about.com) A general web site for learning Italian  
[homeworkspot.com/middle/foreignlanguage](http://homeworkspot.com/middle/foreignlanguage) good links

[French.about.com](http://French.about.com)                      [japanese-online.com](http://japanese-online.com)

[Chinese.about.com](http://Chinese.about.com) Learn some of the Chinese characters.

Arabic.about.com Arabic site  
mylanguageexchange.com  
Phrasebase.com lots of phrases to memorize  
word2word.com/course.html Lots of languages  
studyspanish.com/vocab List of Spanish words  
bbc.co.uk/languages a popular British site for languages

## **Science**

[homeworkspot.com/middle/science](http://homeworkspot.com/middle/science) help for Science homework

[sciencenewsforkids.org](http://sciencenewsforkids.org) Interesting videos

[hhmi.org/coolscience](http://hhmi.org/coolscience) Cool Science For Curious Kids

[sciencemadesimple.com](http://sciencemadesimple.com) Contains science projects and experiments for kids

## **Math**

[mathForArtists.com](http://mathForArtists.com) (an artistic and visual way of learning about math) Click on “challenging problems” for interesting exercises.



[math.com](http://math.com) Good pages for review

[RetireThePenny.org](http://RetireThePenny.org) A math exercise

*What shapes can you find here? Find the ratio of the area of the dark circle to the area of the rectangle.*

## **English Language (Language Arts)**

[awesomelibrary.org](http://awesomelibrary.org) for reviews of books

[imdb.com](http://imdb.com) information about movies (the new literature)

[homeworkspot.com/middle/English](http://homeworkspot.com/middle/English) General review of grammar

## **TEST PREP**

[newFCAT.com](http://newFCAT.com) (to help with FCAT preparations, FREE)

[NUMBER2.COM](http://NUMBER2.COM) (to prepare for PSAT and SAT)

[Collegeboard.com](http://Collegeboard.com) (to prepare for PSAT and SAT)

## **General Learning and sites to practice reading**

[school.discovery.com/students](http://school.discovery.com/students) Lots of activities from the Discovery Channel

[factmonster.com](http://factmonster.com) Big green screen with many

categories

## Introduction (for Adults)

This booklet is directed to students and parents are encouraged to read along and visit the web sites, too! This booklet (with the DVD) will equip you with information to try new web sites and new techniques for your child. Let's start by giving you the techniques and then I'll explain the items by going step-by-step.

### **(1) FIRST STEP: Don't do boring math – look for challenging exercises.**

Here are some cool web sites for math.

**Math.com** and **nctm.org**

Look for the homework section and look for the puzzles. Bring the WONDER of math alive for your child.

**MathForArtists.com** is my web site for explaining learning styles.

**Algebra.com** **Sosmath.com** These are fabulous sites.

But the most important information is this: Your child should be asked to do challenging problems, not repetitive boring work. At some point, the benefits of math are learning to enjoy the mathematical thinking.

These tips come from a course that I took to become a better math teacher. Dr. Sally Robison at Florida Atlantic University suggested many of these links. I'm a better teacher because of her guidance. I encourage math teachers to learn from Dr. Robison and to study Huetinck's textbook on how to teach secondary students.

How do Chinese, Japanese and German kids study a new math course? They do one or two really interesting problems in 45 minutes, often working in

groups. The teacher asks for multiple ways of solving an interesting problem. That's the critical issue here. Every learning style should be given a chance to express how they arrived at an answer, even if the answer is wrong. Then the teacher shows the way "out of the forest."

If you don't have the patience to sit with your child to talk about challenging problems, find a tutor or create a math club. I will personally visit or call or correspond by email ([mistermath@comcast.net](mailto:mistermath@comcast.net)) with any child who has printed out and worked out the answers to the challenging problems.



The questions are located at [nctm.org](http://nctm.org), the **National Council for Teachers of Math**. The direct link to the challenging problems is at **MathForArtists.com**. You might say, "But, Mr. Mac, the answers to the problems are given!" Yes, and the children should explain how they got the answers. The most important part is not the answer. ***The most important part is the explanation.***

If you remember only one thing from this booklet, let it be this: Do more interesting math problems. Please read this carefully. Go to **MATHFORARTISTS.com** and click on "CHALLENGING problems" at the top of the page. Then click on the level that your child wants to attempt. Try this now. (*Mark your work on the checklist on page 3. Good – just 23 more activities and you get the free phone-in tutoring session.*)

# You will bring new life into the math life of your child.

Why? These problems have been selected by teachers  
Visit [MathForArtists.com](http://MathForArtists.com) → See the Flat Challenge      11

of math – and the problems are puzzles. They engage the imagination. These problems require more than just “apply the rule” or “order of operations.” If you learned that math is about **Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally** (Parentheses, Exponent, Multiplication, Division, Addition and Subtraction), then NCTM.org will show you the joy and vitality of math.

## (2) SECOND STEP:

### **Surround yourself with SAT Words**

The second breakthrough (that you will carry away from this booklet) is called “Print and Post.” You have the opportunity to print the SAT words that you find at this web site.

Go to **TeachersToTeachers.com** and click on “SAT Words” or you can go to [geocities.com/teachers2teachers/vocab](http://geocities.com/teachers2teachers/vocab)

Print **five copies** of that list (it’s on page 41 of this booklet), post those words in your bathroom and kitchen, leave a copy next to your bed and carry a copy with you. Read from the list and give a parent the fifth copy. Tell the adults in your life that you want them to ask questions with “fancy” words: “Did your teacher exalt your work today?” (We know that exalt is positive!)

Okay, now we can relax and talk about the theories behind these two exercises...

## (3) STEP THREE:

### **Let's learn about how we learn...**

1. Brain Research
2. Learning Styles and Howard Gardner
3. Thomas Friedman and globalization

4. Dan Pink and a whole new mind
  5. The Big Picture and Dennis Littky
  6. John Stossel and the recent 20/20 report on education
  7. Emotional intelligence
  8. Math standards and the National Council for Teachers of Math
  9. Cooperative teaching methods
  10. Portfolios and exhibitions instead of written test
- Stand and deliver
11. Words to your cell phone

## Introduction (for Students)

Yes, this booklet was written for you – instead of spending hours looking for interesting educational web sites, you can find the stuff right here. There's a way to make school more interesting and it starts with you:

**What is your passion?**

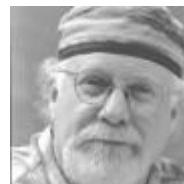
**What do you think is cool?**

**Bring something into school that**

**really interests you. Connect**

*your passion to the school work.*

*Dennis Littky at bigpicture.org asks these questions.*



Some teachers want to stick with the textbook, but many teachers will smile and their eyes will open wider when you print out a web page and ask, “Can you help me with this problem? I found it on the Internet and it looks interesting.” Wow! **A kid who brings in a question!** That’s what many teachers are praying will happen to every student. **“Hey, this one is awake! I’ve got a real question over here!”**

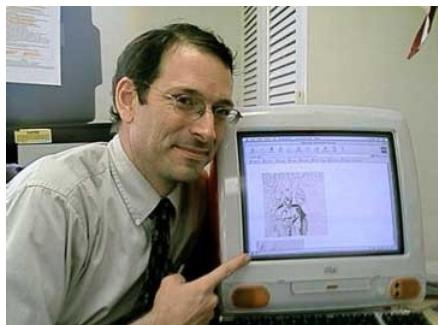
Do you hear the main idea? **You have the power to make at least part of your day more interesting** – just bring a question to your teacher.

If your teacher doesn't make time for your questions, find another teacher. Most teachers want students to ask questions, even if the student is from another class. You can email the question to me at

**[SteveEnglishTeacher@yahoo.com](mailto:SteveEnglishTeacher@yahoo.com)** and we'll discuss the issue. I want to work with kids who have questions.

## The “Free Lesson” Challenge

I will give a free tutoring session to any child or group of children who can demonstrate to me at least three of five problems that I select. I have one hundred sessions (30 minutes each) to give away and I want you to be one of the winners.



*Mr. Mac, you sound desperate, deranged, distraught and frenetic. Where did you get this risible idea? Why are you giving away lessons?*

Because Thomas Friedman scared me. He wrote in his book ***The World Is Flat*** about competition around the world. We need to up the ante, increase the stakes, invest in the next generation and raise the bar. We need to focus on a moon shot effort to improve schools and our standards.

I repeat: A free tutoring lesson, worth \$40, lasting 30 minutes, delivered by Skype.com or by telephone, to any child or group of kids who can meet this high standard. Call me at 954 646 8246 or 954 OH MUCHO if you complete the 75 challenging problems in your grade level on the **nctm.org** web site.

# Start at **TeachersToTeachers.com**

## *NOTE TO PARENTS and STUDENTS*

You can read this booklet in any order you want. You can jump from page to page.

- You can start at the end of this booklet with learning new words,
- You can click through the list of cool web sites (available at TeachersToTeachers.com)
- You can try the challenging math problems **nctm.org** or go through the link at **MathForArtists.com**.

Get going! You can get ahead.

## **Let's begin with brain research.**

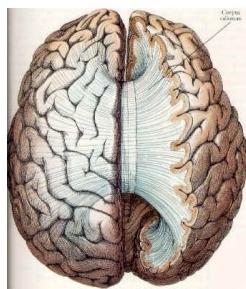
### **1. Brain Research**

There's a structure in the brain called the Corpus Callosum. It connects the emotions and the ability to verbalize.

Ask a boy, "How are you today?"  
Most boys will answer, "FINE." Or  
"Okay."

Ask a girl, "How are you today?"

A typical girl will use more words: "OKAY, I GUESS, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT my friend Minnie and my mom is kind of not in the best mood, and..."



The difference is the connection between feelings and words. Most girls can tell you what they are feeling.

This difference impacts how math can be taught.

Let's look at how we create memories.

If you feel or experience the new item, you will remember it longer. Let's try an experiment:

### **Memorize “Bukra”**

**Bukra = “tomorrow.”** Remember that. It sounds like a “book that will read tomorrow.”

This might be difficult to remember unless I create connections... “buk” sounds like “book” and I need to read a book tomorrow. The more connections that I make between the new word and what I already know, the longer I will remember the new word.

Pink = “wardi”

War between Diana and Charles That's the “war di.” She wanted to paint the castle pink. (*It helps to be imaginative and ridiculous to make the connection stand out in our minds*).

If I show you something that is pink and a photo of Princess Di, you will remember “wardi = pink” more than if I just tell you to remember the connection.

**Don't think of pink elephants.** Oh, now you are thinking about elephants. What color are the elephants?

We remember with humor, with emotion, with something that is out of place → the extreme of imagination.

How did you learn the spelling and meaning of **stationery** and **stationary**?

StAnd still A station A ry  
A LettER ends in ER station ER y store.

I created **MathForArtists.com** to reach many girls and artistic people who don't like math. You will learn about learning styles. Go to **LDpride.net** and take their survey about learning styles.



Everything you need to improve a score on the SAT by 200 points has been mentioned here.

## Anger Management

If the child doesn't want to learn or hates a subject, some anger management might be needed. The list of recommended web sites includes

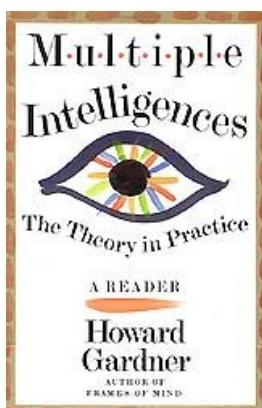
**ResolveToHeal.com**, a list of web pages by Pat Harris, LMFT (family therapist) and **Pat-Harris.com**, with free mp3 files, including "For Teens," an audio file about anger management.

If you say, "*I'm not angry at the teacher, I'm just bored,*" then just jump right in with the videos about education ... There's a "hunter" video where I talk about preparing for the SAT – and kids can start preparing in middle school.

You'll see. The purpose of this booklet (and the enclosed DVD) is to give you the information you need

to ask the right questions, such as

**"How do I persuade my child's teacher that a performance of understanding can be done in more than one way?"** Just as there are many learning and teaching styles, there are also several ways to assess learning.  
["*Performance of understanding*" is a term developed by Howard Gardner.]



**freeVocabulary.com** – print the list of words. Post the list and put the words into action. Create sentences and use the words with your family. "That actor made a **derogatory** remark!"

## Boys and Math

Visual and Active math → We boys need something new: **Action.** If your boys need special attention, it's because of brain structure. Demand attention.

Math teachers are particularly insistent that students should know algebra before the end of 8th grade or 9th grade. But I wonder: Does it matter when a student gets the basic understanding as long as it is before 12th grade? Some kids pick this stuff up later.

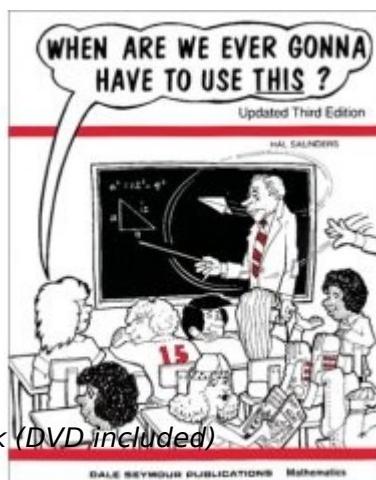
It's also helpful to remember the phrase "**When am I ever going to use this?**" A delightful book by Hal Saunders answers the question with a thoughtful compilation of exercises. After studying his charts, I concluded that most kids don't need to take trigonometry or calculus, but will enjoy learning about statistics (the mean, mode and median with the analysis of a bell curve). SAT math is generally about data analysis, relationships (algebra 1), shapes (geometry), number sense (Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally) and measurements (kilometers, liters, gallons, pints, ounces).

[micron.com/k12/math](http://micron.com/k12/math)  
[coe.west.asu.edu/students/msyrkel/webquestusemath.htm](http://coe.west.asu.edu/students/msyrkel/webquestusemath.htm)  
[nsa.gov/teachers/hs/alg73.pdf](http://nsa.gov/teachers/hs/alg73.pdf)

These links also appear on [TeachersToTeachers.com](http://TeachersToTeachers.com)

### Girls and Math

Start with a Google search and know that there are differences in brain structure, so there should be differences in how the math is presented to most girls. These are



trends, so there are exceptions and some girls do understand math as well as most boys. The purpose here is to say there are a variety of ways to learn math.

**CONCLUSION:** Look for teachers who use cooperative and social methods. SOMEONE WHO TALKS A LOT can often help girls learn more math.

## 2. Learning Styles and Howard Gardner →

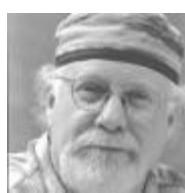
We will start with these EIGHT principles.

**a) Brains are different.** Brain structure can explain some differences between groups of students. Let's offer many ways of teaching and assessing understanding.



**b) Teaching styles need to adapt to learning styles.** Learn more at [LDPride.net](http://LDPride.net).

**c) Adults can set positive examples about schoolwork.** Any teacher (or other adult) who fears math or fears writing should be open about the fear AND should openly ask for help from another teacher (and students). “I hated math at school and I hope I never see another quadratic equation.” DON’T allow that to be said ... it’s a bad example to kids. Reframe the statement: “I always had trouble with algebra. Perhaps you can show me how you do those problems so easily...”



**d) Dennis Littky has created**

**remarkable schools** because he puts relevance and relationships on the same level as academic rigor. If there is nothing else that you do today, at least write an email to me at [mistermath@comcast.net](mailto:mistermath@comcast.net) and ask for the link to the **Small Schools** booklet. I'll email it to you. Or go to my web site **FindASmallSchool.com** and click on Small School Booklet.

e) Written tests are important AND there are other ways to evaluate a student's understanding.

**Exhibitions should be emphasized over writing.** If you want to debate this point with me, let's meet for coffee. I'm buying. 954 646 8246. I find that the strongest opponents to Bill Gates' new Three Rs turn into strong advocates, once they hear about the features of the "exhibition" as it is used at BigPicture.org schools.

f) Students need more than teachers to teach.

**Students need mentors.** Get more adults to volunteer in schools.

**g) Videos should be taken of classes.** Then kids can watch the video and get the main idea. Who needs note taking when there is a video available to double check the notes?

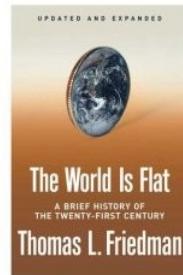
**h) We need more languages in school.** We need teachers *enseignant en français* and mentioning words now and then in Arabic, Hindi and Chinese. Where is Bangalore? Guangzhou? Islamabad?

Okay, let's start talking about the sources of this information: start with an Internet search on "Learning Styles and Howard Gardner"

**Parents:** if a teacher tells you that there's only one way to teach and that's out of the textbook, please invite the teacher to visit a workshop by Dawn Elrad at 754 321 4000. Dawn gives a great workshop on learning styles.

### 3. Thomas Friedman and globalization

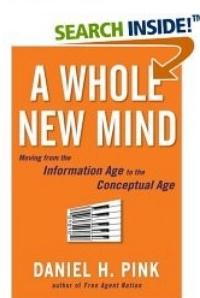
*The World Is Flat* is a fascinating book. Go to [LookForPatterns.com](http://LookForPatterns.com) and click on “the Flat Earth Challenge” – CONCLUSION: You’ll want to know more about the economic forces that are shaping the global economy.



### 4. Dan Pink and a whole new mind

The right brain sees the big picture. The left brain focuses on procedures and obvious details. Guess which provides the great insights....

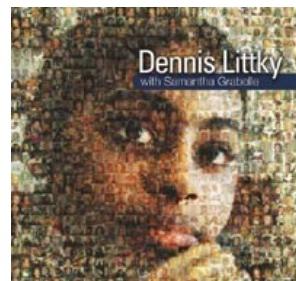
We have two half-brains. Dan Pink writes extensively about the power of innovation to create new jobs and new ways of doing things. Do a search on the Internet for “Dan Pink arts business.” See [ianybarra.com/blog/archives/DanielPinkRinglishCommencement2004.pdf](http://ianybarra.com/blog/archives/DanielPinkRinglishCommencement2004.pdf)



### 5. The Big Picture and Dennis Littky

Exhibitions and portfolios are more accurate and better at inspiring learning than written tests.

Written two page narratives are better than letter grades. If you want to know what else Dennis Littky suggests, go to [bigpicture.org](http://bigpicture.org). Ask to hear the Bigpicture.org audio CD. Look for



Visit [MathForArtists.com](http://MathForArtists.com) → See the Flat C

his interview on April 25, 2005 on National Public Radio (search for “Littky” on [npr.org](http://npr.org)).

## 6. John Stossel and the recent 20/20 report on education

Small schools could be the answer. This report is worth finding and watching. If you can't find it, contact me and I'll arrange a viewing for you. (I'm a tutor: I have an extensive reference library of videos and DVDs. Doesn't every tutor maintain such a library?)

## 7. Emotional intelligence

Two-thirds of success is not related to test taking and grades in school. Can your child recite William Blake and explain the purpose of education? Education helps us see a microscopic world in a drop of water and genetics in plants. We can see trillions of cells on our body and we can divide time into billionths of a second.



Here's how Blake put it... *To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower, Hold infinity in the palm of the hand and eternity in an hour.*

Visit [6seconds.org](http://6seconds.org) and see if you can find some value in this concept. Remember: 65 percent of success is based on social skills.



## 8. Math standards

Wow...[nctm.org](http://nctm.org) → the National Council for Teachers of Math. Take a deep breath. Not everything is necessary. Just visit the Challenging Problems via [MathForArtists.com](http://MathForArtists.com) and exercise the mind...

## 9. Cooperative teaching methods

Traditional teachers expect each student to work alone. However, many teachers realize that “real work” happens in teams in the office. Learn to work with another student. Ask your teachers to create exercises that allow groups of students to work together.

## 10. Portfolios and exhibitions instead of written tests

*Stand and deliver: Ask your teachers to videorecord oral tests as well as pen-and-paper tests. Build a library of your oral performances.*

Ask for truly interesting problems.

Build a portfolio of challenges.



## 11. Words to your cell phone

Send the email address of the phone to my email address...

mistermath@comcast.net. Let me send text (your word for today) to your cell phone.

I hope I will see you **bukra**.

Remember... **book RA**

**I will look at a book tomorrow.**

**Bukra = tomorrow.**

That's the power of learning on the edge. **Learning in the instant.** Now you just need 5 or 6 more exposures and you will know bukra.

The words are “difficult” words in English and there are phrases in other languages. Remember what the Belgian boy said on 20/20, in the John Stossel report (January 2006): “*Guten tag, allo, bon jour, ciao, sabah el kheir, hello. Try that, American kids.*”

If you like this style of outreach, please note that you can help pay for more of these outreaches by hiring me to tutor your kid or by buying the Mr. Mac series of math and language tips. See my web site to get prices: **MathForArtists.com**.

Does your child complain that “I don’t understand the teacher” or “My friends understand but I don’t”? Does the teacher say that your child is just lazy or the teacher doesn’t know how your child will learn to sit still or just follow the problems step by step? There are different learning styles.

### **Know YOUR TYPE.com**

[ldpride.net/learningstyles.MI.htm](http://ldpride.net/learningstyles.MI.htm) Learning Styles online  
go to **LDpride.net**

### **BONUS**

What should you expect a substitute teacher to provide?

I used to teach in a classroom. I sometimes work as a substitute teacher. I have some suggestions ...

### ***The checklist for a substitute teacher***

Anyone who has to be a substitute teacher or anyone who wants to help the substitute have a better experience, go through these ten tips (make a photocopy of this list and hand it to your students).

**1. What is hydroplaning?** What happens when it’s stopped raining and the highway is just a little wet?

**2. About.com** for languages.

**3. Ipods for garrison keillor, science (scienceFriday.com),**

**onthemedia.org** and other shows on National Public Radio. If you are using an ipod, here are some things to put on your ipod. Download some files for students to listen to.

Subscribe to [gophercentral.com](http://gophercentral.com) for history

**[gophercentral.com/sub/history.html](http://gophercentral.com/sub/history.html)**



**4. Show a mentor on video.** Get the free [mentorsonvideo.com](http://mentorsonvideo.com) segments from [talkinternational@yahoo.com](mailto:talkinternational@yahoo.com) or call 954 OH mucho

**5. Go to snopes.com,** bibbi Building International Bridges.com or go to the *Great Challenge for a Box of Candy*. Find it by going to [mathforartists.com](http://mathforartists.com) and click on challenging problems

**6. Collect bad driving videos.** Come on kids, what is the worst example of bad driving that you saw? Describe it. Make sure you get it on video next time

**7. Explain a musical song or poem.** The gambler, the coward of the county. 1776 is anybody there? Does anybody care? Does anybody see what I see? Put those questions in google and see what great lyrics appear. Explain the star spangled banner. Recite the words to the national anthem and to America the beautiful. Explain those lyrics: [Lyricsondemand.com](http://lyricsondemand.com)

**8. Recite the “I can” poem.** Call me when you are ready to recite it. If you state the poem clearly, you get a dollar. Search for “Courage comes from the soul within.” (Edgar Guest) or visit [TeachersToTeachers.com](http://TeachersToTeachers.com) (the “I Can” poem appears there). 954 646 8246

**9. Snopes.com --** Yes I mentioned it before, but visit it again. You have a day off, go there. Read every article that you find interesting in [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)



**10. Don't hurt your ears.** Ipods are fun but protect the little ear hairs.

Here's a suggestion to anyone who visits a classroom – substitute teacher, mentor, parent: **Ask “What**

*Visit MathForArtists.com → See the Flat Challenge*

**should students learn?"** I bet your students will have an opinion. *That will make a good day as a substitute teacher – students will remember learning something.*

## 12. Web sites and Emailers

Let's start with hunting and gathering.

Some of us like to go hunting, others like to look around us and pick up stuff at our feet. We can learn from both styles.

Hunting helps you bump into new information, especially if you are patient. If you keep chasing interesting links, you will find more information that other people don't have.

Gathering is easy when you sign up for email and the information comes to you. Then you just sort through and pick what you want to read. Why not let a mailing service send you interesting stuff?

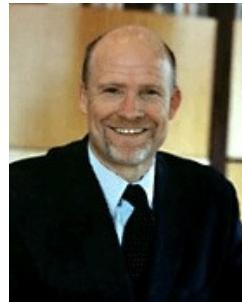
**Gophercentral.com**

## 13. The IWTRT Book

Record the details in life. It doesn't have to be daily and it doesn't have to be more than a sentence. In 20 years, you'll enjoy reading it.

When you look back, you'll laugh and you'll learn about yourself. Do you still like that person in your math class? Do you still like the same subjects? I got this idea from motivational expert Lee Brower. → *We enjoy life more if we capture our prime asset: our experience.*

If we make time to write about our day, if we take time to record high points, then we have more events to remember and the year means more to us. I call it the **"I WANT TO REMEMBER THIS" journal** or the IWTRT book.



## 14. Positive Thinking

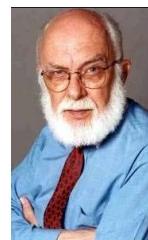
Get happy! *We tend to move toward the things we think about – so let's think about good things.* (Jeraldine Saunders) Sign up for a free positive thought a day. Let your computer tell you cool, inspiring stuff every day. Good Morning Thinkers! Brought to you by the InnovationNetwork [thinksmart.com/library/bookclub.html](http://thinksmart.com/library/bookclub.html) (Please share with friends and associates.) SIGN UP AT: ThinkSmart.com

## 15. Emotional Intelligence

Discover EI, which is more powerful than IQ. Many teachers overlook this: **Two-thirds of a person's success comes from "social skills,"** not from academic results. Try a search on "Daniel Goleman" and "Emotional Intelligence." It's fascinating (and more valuable than anything else you will read in this booklet). Start with [6seconds.org](http://6seconds.org). For example: A famous person gave a commencement speech at a college. He said, "I want every student who achieved a 3.8 grade point average to stand." About 200 students stood up. "Now, look around. Everyone who is seated will be your bosses." In law school the joke is "**The A students make the professors, the B students make the judges and the C students make the money and the D students make the laws.**" (Source: Jack Latona, CreatingTheFuture.org) Many students do poorly in some classes – but they eventually turn into productive and creative people. The purpose of this Internet exercise is to help you connect your passion with social skills.

## 16. Critical Thinking

Here is a typical email message that should trigger your ability to think like a scientist: **GAS WAR**  
- We need to take aggressive action to teach them that BUYERS control the marketplace..... and we CAN have an impact on gas prices if we all act together to force a price war. Look for an analysis on Snopes.com, UrbanLegends.com, **Randi.org** → and TruthOrFiction.com.



## 17. Learn about Learning

Start at the [MetCenter.org](http://MetCenter.org) (this is the school that asks students to learn through their interests). The Met uses unusual words: *Empirical Reasoning instead of Science.* How does a scientist think? She looks at a problem in a different way than most of us.

*Quantitative Reasoning instead of "Math."*

*Social Reasoning instead of "Emotional intelligence."*

Why not visit this web site and ask, *How do I view school?* Then proceed to the ASCD SmartBrief email that discusses left and right brain issues (convergent and divergent thinking). For example:

[r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRxohPmLBqiGeFErJZ](http://smartbrief.com/resp/cRxohPmLBqiGeFErJZ)

\* Research: Self-discipline may trump IQ when it comes to school success

Send an email message to [ascd@smartbrief.com](mailto:ascd@smartbrief.com) to sign up for interesting news about education and learning. Follow this link:

[smartbrief.com/ascd/ascd\\_passiton.jsp](http://smartbrief.com/ascd/ascd_passiton.jsp)

Also go to [WhatShouldStudentsLearn.com](http://WhatShouldStudentsLearn.com) (click on "Gates Speech") and see what Bill Gates says about education.

### BONUS: QUOTATIONS

I like having interesting quotes ready. "You know what they say...." "What?" asks your companion.

"I read somewhere that..." and then you quote someone...

### QUOTE A DAY [quotes2u.com](http://quotes2u.com)

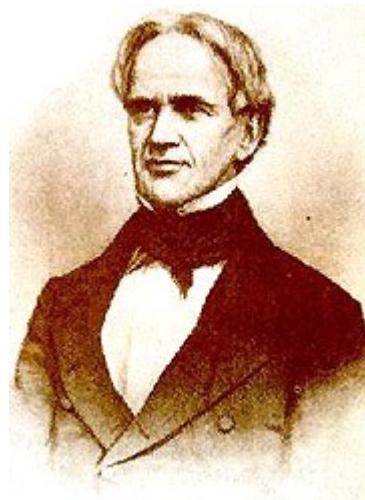
"Words That Inspire, Provoke and Entertain"



No, I shall not give in. I shall go on. I shall work to the end. --Edward VII, King of Britain, d. 1910

Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity  
--Horace Mann →

I'm doing what I think I was put on this earth to do. And I'm really grateful to have something that I'm passionate about and that I think is profoundly important. --Marian Wright Edelman



Archives: [archives.gophercentral.com](http://archives.gophercentral.com)  
Photo credit:  
[horacemann.bcsd.com/horace/who](http://horacemann.bcsd.com/horace/who)

To SUBSCRIBE to "Quote A Day," visit:  
[gophercentral.com/sub/quoteaday.html](http://gophercentral.com/sub/quoteaday.html)  
Get more FUN sent directly to your email box:  
[gophercentral.com](http://gophercentral.com)

## BONUS

# Communication

Get ready for a word a day. You can use some of these words when you are studying for the SAT or GRE. You can also go to [freeVocabulary.com](http://freeVocabulary.com) to get a list of 5000 words that have been seen on major tests.

### EXAMPLE:

This week's theme: words related to repartee.

#### **ad lib (ad LIB) noun**



Improvised speech or music.

verb tr. -- To perform music, speech, etc. spontaneously.

verb intr. -- To improvise.

adjective

Improvised, impromptu.

[From Latin ad libitum (at pleasure).]

Today's word in Visual Thesaurus: [visualthesaurus.com/?w1=ad+lib](http://visualthesaurus.com/?w1=ad+lib)



"From delivery of scripted material to covering slip-ups to ad-libbing, Aznil is probably one of the few in the business who has a sixth sense, comedy wise."

In the republic of mediocrity, genius is dangerous. -Robert G. Ingersoll, lawyer and orator (1833-1899)

Share the magic of words. Send a gift subscription of A.Word.A.Day:

[wordsmith.org/awad/gift.html](http://wordsmith.org/awad/gift.html)

Pronunciation:

[wordsmith.org/words/ad\\_lib.wav](http://wordsmith.org/words/ad_lib.wav)

[wordsmith.org/words/ad\\_lib.ram](http://wordsmith.org/words/ad_lib.ram)

Permalink: [wordsmith.org/words/ad\\_lib.html](http://wordsmith.org/words/ad_lib.html)

*The photos of the Gateway Arch come from angio.net*

### *Newspapers*

Nytimes.com  
Washingtonpost.com  
WashingtonTimes.com  
Latimes.com  
Thetimes.co.uk  
onlinenewspapers.com  
eastandard.net  
japantimes.co.jp  
ben.com.cn  
chinadaily.com.cn  
indiatimes.com

### *Radio*

Theworld.org  
Npr.org  
Slate.com

### *Magazines*

Nationalgeographic.com  
PsychologyToday.com  
Fortune.com  
Forbes.com  
BusinessWeek.com  
Discover.com

### *Museums*

Louvre.fr  
icom.museum/vlmp/  
world.html  
Search "Museums of the  
World"  
museum.com/jb/diatop100  
museum.com

*Dear Student: This list of newspapers, magazines and radio stations is not complete. The first page of each of these web sites doesn't give the full value of the sites.*

*I wish you many enjoyable afternoons and evenings exploring your interests while visiting these web sites.*

## Email Etiquette

In many ways technology has changed the way we interact with one another. This cool site teaches personal and corporate "email etiquette" to those who care to remain polite in the virtual world.

[emailreplies.com/](http://emailreplies.com/)

*Personal qualities: Just Enough Math...*

## 18. Ethics or Calculus?

Should you study more math than you need? Should your child study calculus and higher level math? Or is it possible to get the idea of trigonometry without spending 18 weeks or longer memorizing equations?

Hmmm. If you have questions, send me an email:  
s2314@mail.com.

*What is enough math?* What is “more math than you need”? I met a “teacher of the year” (a really smart person who teaches history) who studied advanced calculus in college. She told me that she found that advanced math helped her think more critically. Does that mean that everyone will get benefit from looking for delta y over delta x (a change in y over the change in x)? There might be a better use of time before university ... If you are convinced that “higher math” is useful, send me an email message and let’s talk about your options.

## 19. Many Ways of Learning

**Re-create Your Classroom** What does Bill Gates say about schools? Visit

**WhatShouldStudentsLearn.com** and click on “Bill Gates Speech.” What are “The Three Rs”? To learn more: **Metcenter.org, BigPicture.org**, Search “CHAD school in Philadelphia.” Search “separate boys and girls classroom learning” (*There are differences of opinion about whether the genders should be separated during certain classes and at certain levels of education*). Perform your understanding (see newcat.com and click on “Perform Your Understanding.”) How would you change your school or classroom? Describe your school or classroom today and then describe a new way of organizing your learning. Send your essay to [talkinternational@yahoo.com](mailto:talkinternational@yahoo.com).

## What work can a teenager do?

a) **Most teens can explain English to an international visitor.** Why not ask if a teen can go to a language school and volunteer as a “conversation leader”?



## **Building International Bridges**

BuildingInternationalBridges.com

Eslcafe.com, Esl.about.com You never know what you will learn when you meet someone from another culture.

**Students:** A visitor might ask you a question about grammar and you could become a tutor. Wherever you travel, you could be a tutor and explain something about the English language. If you know the right place to visit on the Internet, you can have a job with wheels. Why not work freelance, under the table, solo, as a free agent when you travel to another country?

**b) BreakthroughCollaborative.org** -- Most teens can be mentors to younger students. Learn more at this web site about how you can be a mentor to another student.

### **c) Think of other work that a teenager can do.**

Volunteering in a non-profit organization is a way to learn more about the world. Working as an intern in an office several hours each week can help you learn about procedures in a workplace.

## **Health**

Dental care...Learn more about the bacteria behind the gum. Topics from the American Dental Association:

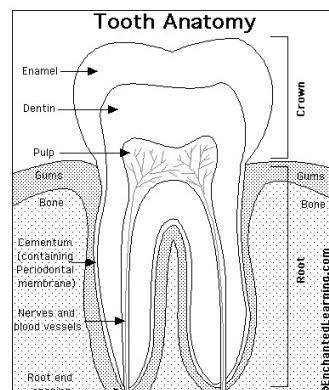
[ada.org/public/topics/index.asp](http://ada.org/public/topics/index.asp)  
Photo credit: [enchantdelearning.com](http://enchantdelearning.com)

### **Look for SAT words in HEALTH**

**TIPS - "News That Keeps You Healthy"**

**Compound stops Alzheimer's brain cell loss**

CHICAGO, -- Northwestern University scientists say they have developed a novel orally administered compound to help Alzheimer's disease patients. The compound reportedly halts brain cell inflammation and neuron loss associated with Alzheimer's disease.



Vitamins E and C may help protect the aging brain against damage caused by Alzheimer's disease, scientists say. The researchers think antioxidant vitamin supplements may benefit the aging population because they are relatively nontoxic and are thought to offer wide-ranging health advantages.  
To SUBSCRIBE: [gophercentral.com/sub/sub-health.html](http://gophercentral.com/sub/sub-health.html)  
ARCHIVES: [archives.gophercentral.com](http://archives.gophercentral.com)

# The List

**Here are web sites** that some teachers have recommended (for reading practice!). This list can be photocopied and placed near your child's computer. When homework is done, it's time to visit one or two of the sites on this list. There will be additions to this list on [TeachersToTeachers.com](http://TeachersToTeachers.com). These sites are suggested because parents ask teachers "**Where can my child learn more?**" This list is for "Extra Learning." Some students get extra credit by showing their "Checklist" form to a teacher.

## **FCAT**

[newFCAT.com](http://newFCAT.com) (to help with FCAT preparations, FREE)  
[fcatexplorer.com](http://fcatexplorer.com) (you need a user ID and password)

## **EXTRA ACTIVITIES**

[LookForPatterns.com](http://LookForPatterns.com) (when you are finished with homework – there's time for more exploring!)  
[infoplease.com/homework](http://infoplease.com/homework) (lots of categories to explore)  
[thebeehive.org](http://thebeehive.org) click on "SCHOOL" in the left hand margin "Homework Help"  
[school.discovery.com/students](http://school.discovery.com/students) Lots of activities from the Discovery Channel  
[factmonster.com](http://factmonster.com) Big green screen with many categories  
Cultural Understanding and Pen Pals  
[BuildingInternationalBridges.com](http://BuildingInternationalBridges.com) (to learn about interesting cultures) *Get an email account with a disposable service like yahoo or hotmail to participate*  
[lyricsondemand.com/soundtracks/s/thesoundofmusiclyrics](http://lyricsondemand.com/soundtracks/s/thesoundofmusiclyrics) The poetry of our age appears on Broadway.

## **SCIENCES**

[homeworkspot.com/middle/science](http://homeworkspot.com/middle/science) help with homework

[sciencenewsforkids.org](http://sciencenewsforkids.org) Interesting videos (middle school)    [ars.usda.gov/is/kids](http://ars.usda.gov/is/kids) Science on the farm  
[howstuffworks.com](http://howstuffworks.com) (recommended by Mr. Rice at DATA Downtown Academy) [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov) for the science of storms  
[quizhub.com/quiz/quizhub.cfm](http://quizhub.com/quiz/quizhub.cfm) [Quizhub.com](http://Quizhub.com) lots of fun and education

[refdesk.com/homework.html](http://refdesk.com/homework.html) a useful gateway to a variety of web sites

[ars.usda.gov/is/kids](http://ars.usda.gov/is/kids) Offers news about plants, animals, and other life science issues.

[hhmi.org/coolscience](http://hhmi.org/coolscience) Cool Science For Curious Kids

[sciencemadesimple.com](http://sciencemadesimple.com) Contains science projects and experiments for kids

[kids.earth.nasa.gov](http://kids.earth.nasa.gov) Learn about NASA earth science projects related to air, thunderstorms, the earth's crust...

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**    [History.com](http://History.com) (of course!)

[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com) (for social studies)

[WhatDoYaKnow.com](http://WhatDoYaKnow.com) A site created by a Social Studies teacher in Palm Beach County.

[bpl.org/kids/socialstudies.htm](http://bpl.org/kids/socialstudies.htm) Boston Public Library's page for Kids (fun)

[socialstudies.org/](http://socialstudies.org/) National Council for Social Studies  
[eduref.org/cgi-bin/res.cgi/Subjects/Social\\_Studies](http://eduref.org/cgi-bin/res.cgi/Subjects/Social_Studies) for teachers. Did you ever wonder where teachers learned so much?

[Geographyolympics.com](http://Geographyolympics.com) They created a world puzzle.

[Hinduism.about.com](http://Hinduism.about.com) (Wow, there's plenty of information at about.com!)

[hinduism.about.com/library/weekly/extra/bl-intro-index.htm](http://hinduism.about.com/library/weekly/extra/bl-intro-index.htm)

## **Lifetime Transitions and Anger Management**

[Pat-Harris.com](http://Pat-Harris.com) and [ResolveToHeal.com](http://ResolveToHeal.com) (emotional Intelligence).

DowntownAcademy.org our school's web site!

## **OTHER LANGUAGES**

Spanish.about.com a general web site for learning Spanish

Italian.about.com A general web site for learning Italian

homeworkspot.com/middle/foreignlanguage/ links to other sites

French.about.com

Chinese.about.com Get a start with some of the Chinese characters.

chinese-tools.com/learn/chinese/anexe-pinyin.html

Chinese-Tools.com has a free online course with pronunciation practice.

Arabic.about.com

word2word.com/coursead.html#arabic A list of courses online.

i-cias.com/babel/arabic/01.htm The first page of the Babel course

Other Languages in the Middle East: i-cias.com

## **READING Practice reading on these sites.**

ncte.org/middle/topics/content/117565.htm National Council for Teachers of English has a book list

snopes.com Read about urban legends and find the truth.

gutenberg.org Over 10,000 books online (FREE)

refdesk.com/homework.html More Homework Help

geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/1333/kids.htm For kids who love books

nancykeane.com/rl/ Book lists to give you ideas about what to read next!

SEARCH on “reading for middle school”

Middleschoolhub.org a collection of interesting quizzes

Quia.com more quizzes

Sign up for "a quote a day" "Words That Inspire, Provoke and Entertain" To subscribe - visit:

<http://www.quotes2u.com>

*(Check with your parent or guardian first – these emailed selections come with advertising)*

\*---- Quotes of the Day ----\*

The worst crimes were dared by a few, willed by more and tolerated by all. --Tacitus

Bonus Quote: Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official... --Theodore Roosevelt

Man was/is born free, and everywhere he is in chains. One who believes himself the master of others is nonetheless a greater slave than they. --Jean Jaques Rousseau

To SUBSCRIBE visit: [gophercentral.com/sub/quoteaday.html](http://gophercentral.com/sub/quoteaday.html)



- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Xinjiang       | 17. Shandong  |
| 2. Inner Mongolia | 18. Jiangsu   |
| 3. Heilongjiang   | 19. Anhui     |
| 4. Jilin          | 20. Hubei     |
| 5. Lianing        | 21. Yunnan    |
| 6. Hebei          | 22. Guizhou   |
| 7. Beijing        | 23. Hunan     |
| 8. Tianjin        | 24. Jiangxi   |
| 9. Shanxi         | 25. Zhejiang  |
| 10. Ningxia       | 26. Shanghai  |
| 11. Gansu         | 27. Fujian    |
| 12. Qinghai       | 28. Guangdong |
| 13. Tibet         | 29. Hainan    |
| 14. Sichuan       | 30. Macau     |
| 15. Shaanxi       | 31. Hong Kong |
| 16. Henan         | 32. Guangxi   |
|                   | 33. Taiwan    |

Why not get familiar with a map of China?  
This map comes from **[chineseculture.about.com](http://chineseculture.about.com)**

## MATH

[algebra.com](http://algebra.com) (for general help with math)

[mathForArtists.com](http://mathForArtists.com) (an artistic and visual way of learning about math) Click on “challenging problems” for interesting math exercises.

[math.com/](http://math.com/) Good pages for review

[number2.com](http://number2.com) (for advanced math training)

[nctm.org](http://nctm.org) (the National Council for Teachers of Math)  
[RetireThePenny.org](http://RetireThePenny.org) A math exercise  
Take the Middle School Math Challenge  
[figurethis.org/index40.htm](http://figurethis.org/index40.htm)  
Test Your Math Skills (requires Shockwave plug-in)  
[timssonline.cse.ucla.edu/index02.htm](http://timssonline.cse.ucla.edu/index02.htm)  
Internet Math Library [mathforum.org/library/](http://mathforum.org/library/)  
Math Counts-Math for Middle School [206.152.229.6/](http://206.152.229.6/)  
Franklin Institute-Open Ended Math Problems for Middle  
School Students [sln.fi.edu/school/math2/index.html](http://sln.fi.edu/school/math2/index.html)

Ask Dr. Math [forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/](http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/)  
*Do you have other web sites that you enjoy? Send  
your suggestions to [mistermath@comcast.net](mailto:mistermath@comcast.net) or  
[smccrea@downtownacademy.org](mailto:smccrea@downtownacademy.org)*

### *Learn a sonnet by Shakespeare XCIX*

1. *The forward violet thus did I chide:*
2. *Sweet thief, whence didst thou steal thy sweet that smells,*
3. *If not from my love's breath? The purple pride*
4. *Which on thy soft cheek for complexion dwells*
5. *In my love's veins thou hast too grossly dy'd.*
6. *The lily I condemned for thy hand,*
7. *And buds of marjoram had stol'n thy hair;*
8. *The roses fearfully on thorns did stand,*
9. *One blushing shame, another white despair;*
10. *A third, nor red nor white, had stol'n of both,*
11. *And to his robbery had annexed thy breath;*
12. *But, for his theft, in pride of all his growth*
13. *A vengeful canker eat  
him up to death.*
14. *More flowers I noted,  
yet I none could see,*
15. *But sweet, or colour  
had stol'n from thee.*

**shakespeares-**



*it*

**[sonnets.com/99comm.htm](http://sonnets.com/99comm.htm)**

Visit [MathForArtists.com](http://MathForArtists.com) → See the Flat Challenge

39



## Learn a poem about Paul Revere

*They saw two  
lanterns in the  
N\_\_ Chu\_\_ T\_\_  
They knew it was to  
be the fateful h\_\_  
For a man to ride  
and to alarm  
Every village and every f\_\_  
To awaken them  
and call to ar\_\_*

*It was the ride of P\_\_ Re\_\_*

*Ride, ride, though the night is c\_\_  
Ride, ride till the truth is to\_\_  
Ride, ride like that man of old  
Ride like Paul Revere*

*I wonder if 200 years ahe\_d  
If we will ride or if we'll stay in b\_d  
If faith and freedom within us die  
And then we hear the midni\_t cry  
And the hoofbeats crossing the moonlit sk\_\_  
Will we ride with Paul Revere?*

### MORE SAT WORDS

(see page 41)

He is **stupid**

subservient like a  
servant

They are **servile**  
(they say "yes" to  
everything the king

fatuous

says)

inane

obsequious

insipid

subjection

obtuse

sycophant

vacuous

toady

vapid

They **go on their  
knees**

They say pleasant  
words to the king

They fawn  
grovel

*A Lesson Plan...*

A final suggestion:

## Create your own domain name.

Even if you don't actually buy the name, it is useful to go through the exercise of finding a unique name. You might have to add a hyphen (that little dash)

Here's the lesson plan that I sent to **godaddy.com**:

**Objective:** Inspire students to use their creativity. How? By asking students to find a unique name for their web site (and design a web site on a free location, such as geocities.com). Students can develop rigor by seeing the results of their efforts to create a brochure on a web page, and by improving their web pages through diligent editing.

**Learning Areas:** Language Arts (expression, spelling, imagination), Math (estimation of the width and length of a page, calculation of remaining space available), Reading (following directions).

### **Stages of the Lesson**

Get access via computer to godaddy.com and geocities.com (or print the instruction page from [geocities.com/countries2001/instruction](http://geocities.com/countries2001/instruction)). The teacher needs to be familiar with the procedure of signing up for an account on geocities.com (or ask a student to lead the class).

Announce the lesson at least two weeks before you give the lesson. This will give time to get parental approvals and students have time to get a yahoo.com account (for use on geocities.com).

Before the day of the lesson, students can design their space and they can prepare materials to put on the space (photos, letters, and poems).

The teacher needs to visit **godaddy.com** to experience firsthand the steps needed to find out if a domain name is available.

## Procedure:

1. **Introduction (before the day of the lesson).** The teacher says, "Many teachers have their own web sites. Many students have web sites. We will create web sites as part of this class on a future day. Let's talk about important issues. What is appropriate information to put on a web site?"
2. **Let parents know.** Before the day of the lesson, inform parents of the plan. Administrators usually take an interest in this material.
3. **Declare the extent of the exercise.** It's easy to set homework for searching for a web domain name. Teacher says, "I will give credit for homework if you bring in a printed page with your unique domain name on the godaddy.com page with the word AVAILABLE next to the domain name." The teacher
4. **Design of the web page.** On the day of the lesson, the students can design their web page using colored pens or just pen or pencil. If there are multiple pages on the web site, the students can draw their home page and the connections to the supporting pages.
5. **On the computer.** The next layer of the design could take place in class or outside class. If you have at least one computer for two students, then the pair work can foster communication. If you have one computer for four students, the class is likely to get let focused ... unless each student takes a turn at setting up the web page, then later building the web page. The team work needed to find a unique web domain name is often helped by having students work as a team

to identify a potential unique domain name. Students who learn best in a social situation might be motivated to work harder than if these social learners are told to find a domain name without help from a partner.

## Difficulties

- a) **No computers in the classroom.** Remedy: Ask students to check the web site at godaddy.com to find out if their domain name is available.
- b) **Students don't have a credit card.** Remedy: Buy a web name for a year. It costs less than ten dollars and the kid is extremely motivated. This idea comes to mind because my students Marcus and Linda really enjoyed having a shorter name to tell their friends.
- c) **Your school doesn't allow computers** to connect with geocities.com. Remedy: There are other free sites: angelfire.com, freeservers.com, and others.
- d) **Irate parents.** "Did you see what my child put on the Internet?" Remedy: Send a letter home to parents and meet with parents ahead of the class. Let everyone know that the web sites should not include

Do you have other ideas? Send your suggestions to [info@godaddy.com](mailto:info@godaddy.com) (that's where I sent this lesson plan).

**Reminder:** SAT WORDS (*post this list on your refrigerator, bathroom wall and in your car*)

Make your own sentences with these words...

I know a secret place. It is hidden. Obscure

Subterranean

Surreptitious

The cat likes to creep around without anyone seeing him.  
Skulk, Lurk

He is not talkative  
Concise Curt

Laconic Reticent  
Succinct Taciturn

I give praise for good work, said the teacher.  
Accolage  
Adulation  
Plaudits

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Verb: I will <b><u>praise</u></b> you if you deserve it.  | He is a <b><u>lazy</u></b> boy<br>Indolent<br>Lackadaisical<br>Nonchalant<br>Languid<br>Lethargic<br>Listless<br>Phlegmatic<br>Somnolent<br>Torpid                              | Steadfast<br>Unfaltering<br>Resolute   |
| Commend<br>Eulogize<br>Exalt Extol<br>Laud<br>Lionize Revere  | He is <b><u>proud</u></b><br>Haughty<br>pretentious<br>Affected Aloof<br>Bombastic<br>Grandiloquent<br>grandiose<br>Magniloquent<br>Ostentatious<br>pontificate<br>supercilious |  |
| His mother might <b><u>criticize</u></b> him for not completing the SAT homework. (scold)                                   | He is filled with <b><u>laziness</u></b><br>Lassitude indolence   |  |
| Admonish<br>Berate Castigate<br>He <b><u>said bad things about</u></b> my uncle.  | He is a <b><u>slouch</u></b> .<br>laggard Sluggard  | He is <b><u>friendly</u></b><br>affable  |
| Censure Chastise<br>Defame Denigrate<br>Disdain Disparage<br>Excoriate<br>Malign<br>Reproach                                | He is a <b><u>fearful</u></b> boy.<br>Craven timid<br>Diffident<br>(lacking in confidence)<br>Pusillanimous<br>Timorous   | Amiable<br>Amicable<br>Bonhomie<br>Convivial<br>Gregarious   |
| He is <b><u>critical about details. (fussy)</u></b>   | He is an <b><u>inexperienced</u></b> child<br>Callow Fledgling<br>Infantile<br>Ingenuous  | This is a <b><u>lucky</u></b> moment.<br>Auspicious<br>Fortuitous<br>Opportune   |
| Punctilious<br>Fastidious<br>Meticulous<br>Perspicacious<br>Scrupulous<br>Discerning  | He is a <b><u>beginner</u></b><br>Neophyte<br>Novice Tyro   | This is a time of <b><u>good fortune</u></b><br>Serendipity<br>a Windfall  |
| She will <b><u>attack</u></b> you if you don't finish washing the dishes!   | He is an <b><u>obedient</u></b> boy<br>Amenable Assent<br>Compliant<br>Deferential<br>(not differential)<br>Docile Pliant<br>Submissive<br>Tractable                            | Please <b><u>soothe</u></b> the nerves and fears.<br>allay alleviate<br>assuage mitigate<br>mollify pacify<br>palliate placate               |
| Reprimand<br>Reprove<br>Revile Upbraid<br>Vilify Rail<br>Rebuke Reproach  | He is <b><u>determined to finish the job.</u></b><br>Tenacious  | He is filled with <b><u>hostility</u></b> hatred<br>anathema malice<br>animosity animus<br>antagonism<br>antipathy enmity<br>aversion rancor |
| He is <b><u>stubborn</u></b><br>Intractable<br>Intransigent<br>Mulish Obdurate<br>Obstinate<br>Pertinacious<br>Incorrigible |   |  |

I **hate** broccoli!

Abhor loathe

Detest despise

He is **an idiot**

A buffoon

a dolt

a dupe

an imbecile

a simpleton

Visit Free

Vocabulary.com

Bonus

## Save A Song

Can you recite the words to any of the following songs?

*Life is just a bowl of cherries, don't be so serious, ....*

*Keep your funny side up...*

*Accentuate the positive, eliminate the ...*



*Methuselah lived 900 years... but \_\_\_\_ will give in to anyone...*

*Raindrops on roses and wh\_\_\_\_\_ on kitt\_\_\_\_\_, bright...*

Thousands of songs disappear from human brains each year. People die, taking with them memories of walking in the summer, listening to a band play, "In the good old summertime..." People forget the lyrics, bit by bit, when they don't recite their favorite songs.

I once quoted the lines that follow "Oh, we're going to a Hukilau..." and "Through that island wonderland..." and "I want to go back to my little grass shack in Ke..." That activity helped me avoid thinking about the lack of heating in the bus terminal where I was waiting.

When I want to inspire myself, I recite "We didn't start the fire..." and I quote the following

*There was a g\_\_\_\_ by the name of George with a small band of m\_\_\_\_ at Val\_\_\_\_ Fo\_\_\_\_. For the comfort of home, he chose the cold and ice. They won inde\_\_\_\_\_ 'cause he paid the pr\_\_\_\_\_. Free\_\_\_\_ isn't free, you've got to pay a p\_\_\_\_\_, you have to sacri\_\_\_\_\_, for your lib\_\_\_\_\_.*

*From Viet\_\_\_\_ to El Alam\_\_\_\_, our figh\_\_\_\_ men will have di\_\_\_\_ in v\_n if we just go on in our comf\_\_\_\_ and ease, doing exactly what we d\_\_\_\_ well pl\_\_\_\_\_. But I have only the following bit of the same song: It's not something handed down to you.*

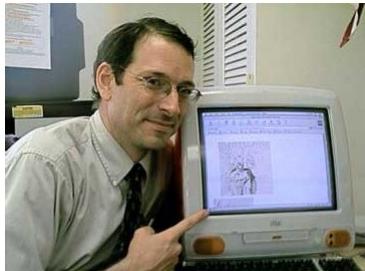
Some of the best lyrics I've found come from a group called Up with People. Here's something from their signature song:  
*It happ\_\_\_\_ just this morn\_\_\_\_, Up , up with people, you meet  
'em wherever you go, Up, up with people, they're the be\_\_\_\_  
kind of folks we know. If more peo\_\_\_\_ were for people...*  
Call me and I'll give you the rest of the lyrics.

## Final words from a tutor

No homework? Or you just finished your homework?  
Before you play or "enjoy your free time," remember  
that you are preparing for the rest of your life: **Take  
ten minutes to visit a web site in this booklet.**

Don't let television and video games get in the way of learning more about the remarkable world over the horizon.

Most TV and most video games are **entertaining**, not **educational**.



*Let's repeat:*  
Most TV and most video games  
are entertaining, not  
educational.

There is no minimum daily requirement for using a video player.

Time spent on a video game is time that could be spent on **about.com** learning another language.

*Shay shay* ("thank you" in Mandarin Chinese).

As Mark Twain (Sam Clemens) recommended,  
***Don't let schooling get in the way of your education.***

**MathForArtists.com** – when you complete 75 math problems, call me. I'll ask you to explain three of them over the telephone.

*BuildingInternationalBridges.com*

### **The Check List for Independent Students**

*Can you study by yourself or with a friend and complete a task? Can you motivate yourself to look up information and answer a question? If so, use this form.*

| Date | Page | <b>What I Did:</b> What did I learn today?<br>What do I remember from the Internet?<br>What am I passionate about? | Check by adult |
|------|------|--|----------------|
|      |      |  |                |
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